

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 9-18, and 22 are amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 9-22 have been withdrawn. Of the remaining claims, claim 1 is independent.

These amendments are made only to more particularly point out the invention for the Examiner and not for narrowing the scope of the claims or for any reason related to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Applicants also note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Gardner et al. reference

This rejection is respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

**I. THE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that the references listed in the specification were not indicated as being considered because these references were not submitted by the Applicants in an Information Disclosure Statement.

In this regard, Applicants will shortly file an Information Disclosure Statement to submit the references listed in the specification to obtain indication of consideration of these references by the Examiner.

## II. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 1, is directed to a system for purchase management based on an administrative standard of purchasing. The system includes an administrative standard specifying unit for specifying, when a purchase request is to be made on a plurality of types of items, the administrative standard of the purchase request according to the expense items representing the category or use of the items defined for each item, an administrative standard specific dividing controller for performing control of dividing the purchase request per administrative standard when the administrative standard specifying unit specifies that the administrative standards of the respective items to which the purchase request was made differ, an administration controller for receiving the purchase request divided per administrative standard and administratively controlling the purchase request, a divided ordering controller for performing control of dividing and ordering the purchase request per item specific dealer when the administration controller allows the purchase request, and an order totaling controller for totaling the order data ordered by the divided ordering controller according to the attribute of the expense item of the order.

Conventional purchase management systems make purchases in small amounts, at a high frequency rate, of a large variety of items, of immense quantities, from a large number of sellers. These purchases vary quite often upon the item and or the territory. Therefore, conventional purchase management systems are complicated and require a high human capital investment.

Some conventional purchase management systems attempt to automate portions of the purchasing process. However, with these systems it is difficult for a user desiring to make a

purchase to place an order for an item in a manner that satisfies a company's purchase conditions and budget. For example, conventional purchase management systems require a user to have perfect knowledge of the accounting title and expense item for each item that the user desires to purchase. If the user does not have that knowledge, the purchasing process is halted and must be started again and oftentimes requires the effort of an additional person having a duty of providing such accounting title and expense item expertise for the user.

In stark contrast, an exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention provides a system for purchase management that includes an administrative standard specifying unit for specifying, when a purchase request is to be made on a plurality of types of items, the administrative standard of the purchase request according to the expense items representing the category or use of the items defined for each item. In this manner, the claimed invention enables a user to conveniently purchase an item without having a mastery of the expense items for each item which the user desires to purchase. (Page 5, lines 9-14).

### **III. THE PRIOR ART REJECTION**

The Examiner alleges that the Gardner et al. reference teaches the claimed invention. Applicants submit, however, that there are elements of the claimed invention which are neither taught nor suggested by the Gardner et al. reference.

Firstly, the Examiner's rejection fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) which requires that "the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable. The pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified." In this case, the Examiner failed to cite the particular portion of the Gardner et al. reference which may have been relied upon.

Should the Examiner continue to allege that the Gardner et al. reference discloses the features of the claimed invention, to assist Applicants' understanding, Applicants hereby respectfully request that the Examiner comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) and MPEP 707.05 by explaining in detail the correspondence between the specific features recited by claims 1-8 and the particular portions of the Gardner et al. reference.

Note that M.P.E.P. § 707.05 states:

*"During the examination of an application or reexamination of a patent, the examiner should cite appropriate prior art which is nearest to the subject matter defined in the claims. When such prior art is cited, its pertinence should be explained"*

To further the prosecution of this application, however, Applicants have closely reviewed the Gardner et al. reference to address the clear differences between the Gardner et al. reference and the claims.

The Gardner et al. reference does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention including a system for purchase management that includes an administrative standard specifying unit for specifying, when a purchase request is to be made on a plurality of types of items, the administrative standard of the purchase request according to the expense items representing the category or use of the items defined for each item. As explained above, this feature is important for enabling a user to conveniently purchase an item without having a mastery of the expense items for each item which the user desires to purchase.

The Gardner et al. reference discloses an electronic requisition and authorization process. The process that is disclosed by the Gardner et al. reference relies upon requisition

rules for each company from which a user may submit a requisition request. The requisition rules that are disclosed by the Gardner et al. reference may include an authorization matrix (col. 1, lines 31-34) which dictates the individuals within the company which must approve the request before a purchase order may be generated (col. 3, lines 32-42).

The process that is disclosed by the Gardner et al. reference further appears to disclose a routing engine which may route a requisition through a company in accordance with the authorization matrix. (Col. 3, lines 39-40)

Additionally, the Gardner et al. reference appears to disclose the ability to split the requisition into sub-requisitions (col. 3, lines 4-17).

However, the Gardner et al. reference does not teach or suggest an administrative standard specifying unit for specifying, when a purchase request is to be made on a plurality of types of items, the administrative standard of the purchase request according to the expense items representing the category or use of the items defined for each item.

Further, the Gardner et al. reference does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention including an order totaling controller for totaling the order data ordered by the divided ordering controller according to the attribute of the expense item of the order. This feature is important, for example, when multiple purchase requests which include items with the same attribute of expense item. In this case, the order totaling controller is capable of totaling the order data across the multiple purchase requests in accordance with the division performed by the divided ordering controller based upon the attribute of the expense item of the order.

The Gardner et al. reference does not teach or suggest totaling anything at all, let alone totaling order data ordered by a divided ordering controller according to the attribute of the

expense item of the order.

Rather, and in stark contrast, the Gardner et al. reference appears to suffer from exactly the same problems which are solved by the claimed order totaling controller. In particular, the Gardner et al. reference appears to disclose generating a purchase order for each vendor for each or a requisition and/or sub-requisition. The Gardner et al. reference does not teach or suggest anything at all about totaling these requisitions and/or sub-requisitions.

Therefore, the Gardner et al. reference does not teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection of claims 1-8.

#### **IV. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-22, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

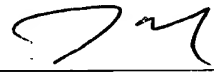
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 1/9/06

  
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